

re : Damage of Jawar Crops in Bidar, Gulbarga and Raichur Districts

Sri V. N. PATIL.—Sir, I call the attention of the Minister for Revenue to the damage of Jawar Crops in Bidar, Gulbarga and Raichur Districts due to sugar disease.

† Sri H. V. KOUJALGI (Minister for Revenue).—Sir, In response to the calling attention by Sri V. N. Patil I beg to State as follows :—

GULBARGA :

The Deputy Commissioner, Gulbarga, has reported that there was a bumper Kharif crop in the whole of Gulbarga District, as a result of which the prices had come down considerably. The Rabi crop is however reported to have been affected to an extent of about 30 per cent due to adverse seasonal conditions and pest attacks. The local authorities of the Department of Agriculture has been asked to take urgent remedial measure to deal with the pests. At any rate the Rabi crop forecast, according to the Deputy Commissioner, is about 60 to 70 per cent throughout the district. Present conditions do not warrant suspension of collection of land revenue or postponement of takavi and other arrears or levy procurement.

BIDAR :

Major Kharif crops like Kharif jowar and groundnut have been adversely affected in some areas of the district by untimely rains at the time of harvest. According to the eye estimate, the yield of Kharif jowar in the affected areas may be between 25 per cent to 37 per cent. The Rabi crops like Rabi jowar and gram have also been adversely affected in some areas due to cold weather and sugar disease. The eye estimate of Rabi jowar in the affected areas may also be between 25 per cent to 37 per cent. The actual annewari will be determined carefully with reference to the crop cutting experiments. At present, there are no definite proposals for suspension of land revenue of current demand. The question of suspension or remission of land revenue and other Government dues including arrears will be examined by the local officers with reference to the actual results of the crop cutting experiments.

RAICHUR :

Kharif crops have been affected only in 22 villages of Sindhanur Taluk covering an area of 18,515 acres. Proposals for remission of Land Revenue in respect of these villages are under the consideration of the subordinate officers. No coercive measures will be adopted for recovery of land revenue and Takavi arrears in these villages. In the rest of the district, Kharif crops were average and no reports of sugar disease have been received. Some plots of Rabi jowar are reported to have been affected by mild sugar disease. Final position of Rabi jowar will be known after results of the crop cutting experiments now in progress are received and examined by the local officers.

As regards levy procurement, only paddy and jowar are being procured under the respective Levy orders under a slab system of levy determined with reference to the area of the grower's holding and its source of irrigation. There is provision under the Levy orders for the determination of the net assessed surplus with a grower. There is no provision under the levy orders to stop collection of levy. However, there is provision to grant remission in the quantum of levy in respect of drought affected and flood affected areas based on the "Annewari" according to the scales noted below :—

- (a) Total remission — If the 'Annewari' is below 4 annas.
- (b) 50% „ — If the 'Annewari' is between 4 annas and 6 annas.
- (c) 25% „ — If the 'Annewari' is between 6 annas and 8 annas.

Remission can be granted at the above scale.

Sri V. N. PATIL.—I want to know whether grant of remission in quantum of levy applies to all the three districts of Gulbarga, Bidar and Raichur. Even according to the Government estimate, the present yield of crop is 30 per cent. So, is it not justifiable to stop collection of land revenue arrears for those areas where crops are in a bad condition? In Bidar District the method adopted to determine the crop yield, is very cumbersome. Several people have received notices for payment of their dues and takavi loans. This is a question pertaining to 20 lakhs of people. I wish to know whether the Government will be lenient to them, ensure justice to them and not insist upon the collection of takavi and other arrears? About policy matters, will Government itself decide them instead of entrusting that responsibility to the Deputy Commissioners?

Sri H. V. KOUJALGI.—So far as this levy procurement is concerned, this order is applicable throughout the State. The quantum of levy depends upon the Annewari and the scales prescribed for remission. As regards the second question, I may State that in some villages according to the crop-cutting experiment, the yield is below 25 per cent. In such cases there are standing orders for giving total remission. If the yield is above 25 per cent and below certain percentage, it is 50 per cent. There is a scale in the standing orders for granting remission. Regarding the third point, I may say that policy matters are not left to the Deputy Commissioners and so they cannot be arbitrary. They are carrying out the Standing Orders. The policy has been laid down by the Government under certain rules.

Sri V. N. PATIL.—What about the collection of Takavi loans?

Sri H. V. KOUJALGI.—The Land Revenue Code is quite clear on it.